

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 021211
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R 261723Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY OSLO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: XV, TGEN, EFIS, US

SUBJECT: ANTARCTICA: CONVENTION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF
ANTARCTIC SEALS

REFERENCE: (A) MOSCOW 880; (B) STATE 11015

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PAGE 02 STATE 021211

1. REFTEL (A) REPORTED THAT CONVENTION FOR CONSERVATION
OF ANTARCTIC SEALS HAD BEEN RATIFIED BY THE USSR ON
JANUARY 12. BELGIAN RATIFICATION IS IN PROCESS AND
EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED SOON. SINCE FIVE STATES HAVE
ALREADY RATIFIED (U.S., UK, NORWAY, FRANCE, AND SOUTH
AFRICA), THE CONVENTION, WHICH REQUIRES RATIFICATION BY
SEVEN STATES, WILL SOON COME INTO FORCE.

2. EARLY RATIFICATION BY OTHERS WOULD NOT ONLY HELP PUT THE ANTARCTIC SEAL CONVENTION IN PLACE, SOMETHING WHICH IS EXTREMELY VALUABLE IN ITSELF, BUT IT WOULD ALSO GIVE PRACTICAL EFFECT TO THE ANTARCTIC TREATY PARTIES COMMITMENT TO RATIONAL CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF ANTARCTIC RESOURCES. BEGIN FYI: FURTHER, RATIFICATION OF THIS CONVENTION, WHICH WAS NEGOTIATED BY THE ANTARCTIC TREATY PARTIES OUTSIDE OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY CONSULTATIVE MEETING FORUM, PROVIDES A USEFUL PRECEDENT FOR NEGOTIATION OF AN ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES REGIME. END FYI.

3. FOR WELLINGTON: PLEASE INFORM GONZ OF IMPENDING COMING INTO FORCE OF CONVENTION AND REITERATE OUR HOPE, MOST RECENTLY EXPRESSED DURING COURSE OF BREWSTER/SCULLY CONSULTATIONS IN WELLINGTON JANUARY 16, THAT GONZ WILL BE ABLE TO BRING FORWARD NECESSARY LEGISLATION SO THAT IT, TOO, MAY RATIFY CONVENTION.

4. FOR CANBERRA: PLEASE INFORM GOA OF IMPENDING COMING INTO FORCE OF CONVENTION AND REITERATE OUR HOPE, EXPRESSED DURING BREWSTER/SCULLY CONSULTATIONS, THAT AUSTRALIA CAN MOVE PROMPTLY TOWARD RATIFICATION FOR THE REASONS EXPRESSED DURING TALKS WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY AND THE INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON JANUARY 18. YOU MAY ALSO WISH TO INFORM CRICK, DFA, THAT, CONTRARY TO WHAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 021211

DFA RECORDS APPARENTLY SHOW, BOTH CHILE AND JAPAN SIGNED THE CONVENTION ON DECEMBER 28, 1972.

5. FOR MOSCOW: PLEASE EXPRESS TO GALITSYN OR KHLESTOV, AS APPROPRIATE, OUR GRATIFICATION AT SOVIET RATIFICATION. THE COMING INTO FORCE OF THE CONVENTION WILL FURTHER SERVE TO UNDERSCORE THE CONCERN OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY PARTIES WITH CONSERVATION OF THE ANTARCTIC ECOSYSTEM. EMBASSY MIGHT INQUIRE WHEN SOVIETS PLAN TO DEPOSIT INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION.

6. FOR LONDON: WE WILL BE GRATEFUL FOR EARLY INFORMAL NOTICE FROM THE UK, WHICH IS CONVENTION DEPOSITARY, THAT BELGIUM AND USSR HAVE RATIFIED AND DEPOSITED INSTRUMENTS AND THAT CONVENTION IS IN FORCE.

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